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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/921,538 | 08/03/2001 | Michio Okamura | 116-990299 | 8044 |

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08/14/2002

David C. Hanson
Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon Orkin & Hanson, P.C.
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

EXAMINER

HENDRICKSON, STUART L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1754

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.

921538

Applicant(s)

Kanun

Examiner

11/24/90

Group Art Unit

108

Period for Reply

3

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

6/11/2

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11
2, 7

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 10, 11 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) 2, 9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 9, 6, 11 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892☐ **Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152**☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1⁴ and ~~6~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A) In claims 1 and 4, 'graphite-like' is unclear if graphite is claimed, and how close it has to be.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Miyabayashi et al.

The reference teaches in ex. 1-1 a graphitized material having the claimed d002 spacing. Although it is not characterized as 'graphite-like' and differs in the way it was made, any difference imparted by the product by process limitations would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because where the examiner has found a substantially similar product as in the applied prior art the burden of proof is shifted to the applicant to establish that their product is patentably distinct not the examiner to show that the same process of making, see *In re Brown*, 173 U.S.P.Q 685, and *In re Fessmann*, 180 U.S.P.Q. 324. The intended use does not limit the material.

Claims 4, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyabayashi et al.

The reference teaches the carbon, but not a capacitor. However, use in a capacitor is taught in column 12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the carbon of Miyabayashi as a capacitor because doing so exploits its electrical properties. Concerning claim 11, holding plates in a confined structure is an obvious expedient to prevent ruining the battery during shipping. The effect 'limiting expansion' is deemed possessed by the fact that it is a confining structure.

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Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyabayashi et al. as applied to claims 1, 4 and 11 above, and further in view of Suzuki et al.

Miyabayashi does not teach the claimed solvent/electrolyte. Suzuki does in column 10.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed material in the system of Miyabayashi because doing so provides a ammonium electrolyte suggested in col. 11.

Applicant's arguments filed 6/11/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Graphite like is indefinite for the reason given; there are properties other than d spacing to consider. The claims should positively recite the pore structure to distinguish from the references (with accompanying Declaration). The expansion under voltage has not been shown to be a large stress on the carbon, so the force necessary has not been demonstrated. In view of graphite's well known heat resistance, the expansion would not be expected to be large.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Hendrickson at telephone number (703) 308-2539.



Stuart Hendrickson
examiner Art Unit 1754